

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 COA-02 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04 INT-08

RSR-01 /247 W

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R 010745Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 907

INFO USUN NEWYORK 9407

UNCLAS GENEVA 4061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 30

1. SUMMARY MAIN COMMITTEE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION. CHIEF ISSUE WAS WHETHER CONTACT OR SUBGROUPS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO EXPEDITE WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. USSR REP EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SEABED COMMITTEE COULD FULFILL ITS MANDATE AND STATED HIS CONCERN WITH LACK OF PROGRESS IN SUBCOMMITTEE II, WHICH HE SAID COULD AFFECT RESULTS OF LOS CONFERENCE. HE WARNED THAT UNSUCCESSFUL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE USEFULNESS OF PARTICIPATION IN LOS CONFERENCE ITSELF. REP URGED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE ESTABLISH CONTACT GROUPS AND HE PROMISED USSR DEL WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF SUCH GROUPS. HE SUGGESTED THAT CONTACT GROUP UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMERASINGHE BE REACTIVATED.

3. URUGUAY REP SUPPORTED IDEA OF ESTABLISHING SMALLER COMMITTEE
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UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMERASINGHE OR OTHER CHAIRMEN AND WITH

MEMBERSHIP VARYING ACCORDING TO SUBJECT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MAIN COMMITTEE TAKE UP TOPICS OF GENERAL NATURE, SUCH AS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT, REGIONAL AGREEMENTS, AND WHETHER SEABED AUTHORITY SHOULD BE SPECIALIZED AGENCY OR NOT. BULGARIAN REP STRESSED NEED FOR PROPERLY PREPARING FOR LOS CONFERENCE. HE SUGGESTED CONTINUATION OF ESTABLISHED WORKING GROUPS BUT, AT SAME TIME, PROMOTION OF ORGANIZED DISCUSSIONS. HE PROPOSED SPECIFICALLY THAT CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE II AND CHAIRMAN OF ITS WG TAKE LEAD IN INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO SUPPORTED PROPOSAL TO REACTIVATE CONTACT GROUPS UNDER CHAIRMAN AMERISINGHE, FORMALLY REQUESTING CHAIRMAN TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF CONVENING MEETINGS OF CONTACT GROUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, OR AT LATEST,

AUGUST 6. SENEGAL SAID AFRICAN GROUP IS CONCERNED WITH SLOW PACE OF WORK AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR IDEA OF CONSULTATION GROUPS. COLOMBIAN REP EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MULTIPLICITY OF WGS AND POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES OF ESTABLISHING SUB-GROUPS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENSUS OR UNDERSTANDING AS TO THEIR FUNCTION. HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR RECONVENING CONTACT GROUP UNDER AMERASINGHE. PERU STATED THAT PREVAILING OPINION IS TO CONTINUE WORK IN SUBCOMMITTEE II ON BASIS OF COMPARATIVE TABLE PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT AND TAKING EACH ITEM IN TABLE IN ORDER. HE DID NOT FAVOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EITHER FORMAL OR INFORMAL WORKING PARTIES AND HE URGED THAT IT BE LEFT TO EACH SUBCOMMITTEE TO WORK ON ITS OWN METHOD OF WORK. HE STATED SMALL WORKING PARTIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT POLITICAL CONSENSUS.

CAMEROON (ENGO) SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE I, MADE CLEAR HE DID NOT WANT CONTACT GROUPS TO INTERFERE WITH WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEE I. HE URGED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH GROUPS BE POSTPONED. UK REP SAID SUBCOMMITTEES I AND II ARE MOVING ALONG IN RIGHT DIRECTION AND THERE IS NO NEED TO EXAGGERATE PROBLEMS IN SUBCOMMITTEE II. HE ASKED THAT CONSULTATION PROCEDURES NOT BE FORMALIZED. TANZANIAN REP SAID IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT BY ESTABLISHING SMALL DRAFTING GROUPS. HE DID, HOWEVER, SUPPORT REACTIVATION OF CONTACT GROUPS.

4. US DEL STATED HE AGREED THAT PRINCIPAL WORK OF SEABED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES SHOULD BE TO DRAFT TEXTS -- EITHER AGREED OR ALTERNATE TEXTS. HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS WHO WISHED TO EXPLORE WAYS TO EXPEDITE WORK. HE NOTED THERE HAD BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOME PROGRESS, CITING DRAFTING OF ARTICLES, PREPARATIONS OF COMPARATIVE TABLE, AND DISCUSSION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE SAID US DEL FAVORS SETTING UP FORMAL OR INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS TO CONSIDER TOPICS WITHIN MANDATES OF SUBCOMMITTEES. US REP ALSO ENDORSED PROPOSAL TO REACTIVATE CONTACT GROUP UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMERASINGHE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CONTACT GROUP COULD FOCUS ON ISSUE OF HOW TO

EXPEDITE SEABED COMMITTEE WORK. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING HE DID NOT WANT THIS PROCEDURE TO INTERFERE WITH SUBCOMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, BUT THOUGHT CONTACT GROUPS SHOULD BE HELPFUL AS SUPPLEMENT.

5. SEVERAL LA DELS COMPLAINED THAT WG DOCUMENTS ARE BEING ISSUED ONLY IN ENGLISH. THIS THEME WAS REPEATED LATER IN DAY IN SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.

6. CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE STATED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN COULD ORGANIZE CONSULTATIONS AND THAT HE WOULD REACTIVATE CONTACT GROUPS, STRESSING, HOWEVER, THAT CONTACT GROUPS MUST NOT INTERFERE WITH SUBCOMMITTEES. BASSIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SEABED, LAW OF THE SEA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA04061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvzd.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 30
TAGS: PBOR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005